

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2966
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2007
COMPULSORY EYE DONATION
Deora Shri Milind Murlu

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a Central Legislation to make Eye Donation compulsory for all accidental deaths like that of the Western Countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

- (a) & (b): No, Sir. There is no proposal to introduce a Central Legislation to make Eye Donation compulsory for all accidental deaths like that of the Western Countries.
- (c) The following steps have been taken to meet the shortage of donated eyes:-
 - (i) Increase public awareness.
 - (ii) Promote hospital cornea retrieval programme.
 - (iii) Provision for posting of grief counselors.
 - (iv) Public education with steps to prevent infection, injuries etc. to reduce the demand for corneas.
 - (v) Better quality of cataract surgery to reduce iatrogenic corneal damage.
 - (vi) Better quality of eye banking medical standards and services.
 - (vii) Post operative care to prolong graft survival and reduce need for regrafts.